



KEVIN BRADY
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

DEPUTY WHIP

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

February 12, 2020

San Jacinto River Authority Board
1577 Dam Site Road
Conroe, TX 77304

San Jacinto River Authority Board:

The San Jacinto River Authority is a state agency, not federal, created by the Texas Legislature with board members appointed by the Governor. I believe in local control, and respect the authority the board has over their jurisdiction.

Yet, the repeated flooding of property in Montgomery County and near Lake Houston has spurred Texas lawmakers in Congress like me to repeatedly secure tens of billions of dollars of federal disaster funding to help the families and communities harmed. And while not a local or state official, I live in Montgomery County and feel the need to speak out.

First, focusing only on the SJRA won't fix our downstream flooding problems. The other major watersheds in Montgomery County, the rivers along north Harris County, and the problems with Lake Houston all must be addressed effectively if we're truly serious about preventing or lessening flood damage downstream. If and when the SJRA does reach a decision regarding Lake Conroe, the focus must still be on finding a real, comprehensive solution for the communities in east and south Montgomery County, as well as the Kingwood/Lake Houston, that just keep getting hammered by this flooding. And it will take local, state and federal leaders as well as the local communities working together to find these tailored solutions.

Secondly, SJRA should take all reasonable actions to help mitigate flooding while recognizing the concerns and needs of all affected residents.

Lives and livelihoods both matter. I urge the SJRA to find a balance that helps flood prone communities while not threatening the safety or economy stability of the Lake Conroe community.

To that end, I strongly encourage the board to end the temporary policy of seasonally lowering the Lake Conroe water levels. It's been three years since the temporary policy was introduced, and our hardworking residents deserve a permanent solution based on scientific, comprehensive studies. As you are aware, my constituents in Lake Conroe have made it clear they're against extending the seasonal lowering of the lake as is and are eager to find a balanced solution that works for all.

Sincerely,

Kevin Brady
Member of Congress